PRICE FIVE CENTS.

### **ENGLAND'S MILITARY SYSTEM** IS HOPELESSLY INELASTIC.

Places Serious Difficulties in Way of Those Charged With Conduct of Boer War.

IMMENSE AMOUNT IS SPENT.

De Wet's Compatriots Have Cost the British \$400,500,-000-Irish Nationalists Are Persistent.

New York, Feb. 23.—Political questions which are foremost in the minds of King Edward's subjects are discussed in a special cable to the Evening Post to-day, as follows:

London, Feb. 23.—Every day the papers tell us that De Wet's career in South Africa is just closing. He is either practically cap-tured or practically driven into the Orange River or practically starved and horseless. But still the war goes on and the Govern-ment has had to admit this week that not until the end of March can it hope to give Lord Kitchener even 3,000 of those mounted re-enforcements without which he seems powerless to do more than keep the Boers

re-enforcements without which he seems powerless to do more than keep the Boers on the move.

After his speech in the House of Commons on Tuesday, no one can doubt the earnestness of Mr. W. St. John Broderick, the new Secretary of State for War. The simple truth is that England's military system as now conceived is hopefessly inelastic in the face of the situation presented by roving bands of 7,000 armed Boers, and needs a far stronger man than Mr. Broderick or any other Minister, except, perhaps, Mr. Chamberlain, to override the official routine and social prejudice by which this deficient system is buttressed up.

One day the public will wake up, and, finding the man, will make a pretty clean aweep of the whole army administration.

Serious Financial Problems.

Meanwhile, the war continues, and promises to continue indefinitely, because, the simple truth is that England's military system as now conceived is hopelessly inelastic
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Serious Financial Problems.
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concession of Boer independence being tabooed, Lord Kitchener is not granted the means to pursue a vigorous policy of offense at every point. You cannot do this with driblets of half-trained yeomenty. If the truth were known, it probably would be found that the Chancellor of the Exchequer is largely responsible for this slackness in pushing the war to a close. He confessed in the House of Commons last night that \$40,500,000 had already been spent on the war, and that each week added \$5,000,000 to \$6,000,000. He is at his wit's ends to keep pace with this expenditure, let alone the increase which a really vigorous prosecution of the war would involve.

For, besides the war, there are other large open accounts. Army reform is absolutely dependent upon increased pay of the common soldier, whose paitry shilling per day, subject, as it is, to all manner of deductions, compares strangely with the 5shillings per day received by the colonial trooper fixthing side by side with him in South Africa.

The navy, which alone stands between England and her European enemies, has fallen behind in new construction. The Spectator, which is not given to alarms, admits to-day that the Mediterranean and channel feets are sadly deficient in cruisers. Both are almost devoid of fleet auxiliaries, while the Mediterranean fleet is most inadequately equipped with destroyers. Increased naval expenditures cannot wait, and how to meet these and other pressing claims without recourse to that forbidden thing, a protective tariff, is England's paramount puzzle at the present moment. She will solve it, of course, but not without heavy merifices.

Peraistence of the Irish.

It is a high tribute to the persistence of

without heavy merifices.

Persistence of the Irish.

It is a high tribute to the persistence of the Irish nationalists that, despite these imperial preoccupations, they have managed to make Ireland the chief theme of Parliamentary discussion this week. For the moment, they have failed to induce the Government to contemplate the compulsory buying out of Irish landlords at a cost of \$600,000,000, but their stand will compel the Government to attempt some legislation to meet the anti-landlord campaign, for which this debate has provided a new starting point.

# SOLILOQUY ON LOOT, BY AN HEIRESS.

Miss Margaret Astor Chanler, Red Cross Nurse in Pekin, Writes Verses Concerning a Phase of Civilized Warfare.



New York, Feb. 23.—Miss Margaret Astor panier, beneficiary of an income of 25,000 can't say for certain, the auctions are overlanded and nursing sick and wounded marrican soldiers in China as a member it's getting disgusting this talk about loot. It's getting disgusting this talk about loot. I hope if I'm killed my crowd will just shoot in the red Cross, is evidently disgusted.

with certain phases of civilized warfare as it is practiced by the allied armies in the land of Confucius. She expresses this disgust in the follow-

SOLILOQUY. In the Temple of Agriculture, Pekin. BY MARGARET ASTOR CHANLER.

Alone in my tent I look for my loot. Sables by hacking will surely come round, Carefully packing to weigh but four pound,

### WILL BE NO SUNDAY DRINKS OR SHAVES.

Washington Lawmakers Provide Says It Has a Pernicious Effect on for a Very Dry Day Before the Inauguration.

PUBLIC SPECIAL

ashington, Feb. 23.—The inauguration or, with a thirst or a beard, will be mwire if he gets here on the Sunday beere the inauguration. Of course, he might ring a bottle and a razor of his own, but there are inconveniences connected with

An effort was made to get permission for saloons to keep open on Sunday preeding the inauguration by paying a fine. but not forefiting their licenses. This the fathers refused to allow.

It was asserted by the saloonmen that they would be forced to open on Sunday to rotect their places, as experience with terious inaugurations has taught them but many turbulent spirts, when they find he saloons closed, proceed to open them on sale own account. The argument, however, had no effect.

in had no effect. In the property of their own the property of they desire to improve their facial paranes on the 3d. All barber shops will closed, and every violation of the law ill cost the offender \$20.

LD NEGRO CONFIDENCE MAN.

le Swindles a Negro Woman Out of Five Dollars.

at 31,000.

Fire broke out early yesterday morning in a coal shed in the rear of No. 3415 Texas a coal she was old and his exesting to with him to purchase thirty yards as he was old and his exesting to was the maked them to the foot Office. The walked them to the foot Office, he asked the Bischoff woman if she may change. She handed him 5, he had to return in a minute with \$20 he would get inside. He then went and did not return. After waiting an and did not return to the police.

## DOCTOR DECRIES MATINEE HABIT.

Young Girls, and May

Milwaukee, Feb. 21.-Doctor Richard Dewey, a specialist on nervous diseases declares that the matinee habit is dangerous to the nerves. Doctor Dewey, in an-

"The matinee habit is certainly harmful to most young girls. The nervous strain that a young girl undergoes while witnessing the average dramatic performance is exceedingly severe, and if often repeated is likely to do great injury."

His statement has provoked interest among the girls, among the theatrical man-agers and the physicians. Mrs. Orphan Leavitt, the acting president of Milwaukee-Downer College, said she looked upon the matinee hubit like any other form of inebriation and that it cer-tainly is bad for girls.

SMALL FIRES ARE NUMEROUS. Houses in Various Parts of the City Are Damaged.

A gasoline stove exploded in the kitchen of Thomas E. Amos's house at No. 4556 Labadie avenue at noon yesterday, setting fire to the house. An alarm of fire was turned in, and the blaze was put out with small damage. No one was injured.

Nelson McCoy's two-story frame residence at Emerson and Lillian avenues, was almost completely destroyed by a fire, which caught from a defective flue at 10 o'clock yesterday morning. The damage is estimated at 31,000.

#### **AMALGAMATION OF** BANKING HOUSES.

"to Conduct a Financial Department Store."

IMMENSE CAPITAL IS MERGED. WORK IN

Are the Leading Financial Interests Back of This Latest Combine.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL. New York, Feb. 21.-An amalgamation of banking corporations heretofore associated with the North American Trust Company has just been effected, involving a pros pective capitalization of \$50,000,000 including surplus.

the language of one of its directors, pro-poses to conduct a financial department store in its building at No. 149 Broadway. Following is the announcement made by James B. Dill, a prominent stockholder in all the corporations affected:

"The North American Trust Company of New Jersey has taken over the control of the Corporation Trust Company of New Jersey, the Corporation Trust Com-pany of New York, the Corporation Organization and Trust Company of Chicago, the New Jersey Registration Company of Boston and the Corporation Trust Company of Maine, together with various minor or-ganizations, all of which make up the prin-cipal corporation, registration and corpora-tion trust business of the United States. "While no announcement has been made of the connection between the North Ameri-can Trust Company of New Jersey and the North American Trust Company of New York, it will be remembered that all of the gentlemen who were the incorporators of

gentlemen who were the incorporators of the New Jersey company were connected with the North American Trust Company of New York in one way or another.

"It is, therefore, assumed that the two companies are under the same control and the same management and policy. The North American Trust Company, as has heretofore been announced, has absorbed the trust company of New York, together with the transfer business and the trust business and the corporation business heretofore carried on by the first above-named companies.

No Change in Methods.

"It will not be the policy of the North American Trust Company of New Jersey to change the organization or business methods of the various companies which it has thus acquired."

In explanation Mr. Dill said that the North American Trust Company of this city, Oakleigh Thorne president, was the real owner of a controlling interest in all the subordinate companies.

The registering business of the company was originated by the Corporation rust Company of New Jersey, of which ex-Governor Abbett was one of the organizers.

This company represents over 1,0000 companies incorporated by it under the laws of New Jersey, having an aggregate capital of over \$6,000,000,000. No Change in Methods.

ful realty company has also been

approached.

Interests Back of Combines.

The North American Trust Company of New Jersey, with all its registration departments, will occupy the second floor of the North American Trust Company of New York. But registration offices will be maintained in the various cities where the absorbed registration companies are now located.

now located.

The leading financial interests back of the North American Trust Company are Fletcher S. and Perry S. Heath, who are also in control of the Seventh and Ninth National banks. National banks.
It is said that the North American Trust

It is said that the North American Trust Company will guarantee the financial transactions of the subordinate companies, which will include every branch of financial enterprise known, if the plans of the officers of the company are fully carried out.

The Trust Company of New York, which has a capital of \$1,000,000 and a surplus of a like amount, has been absorbed by the North American Trust Company.

The proposition made by President Oakleigh Thorne of the North American Company was unanimously accepted. The unerger will become effective next month.

The assets of the combined companies will exceed \$22,000,000 and the deposits \$16,000,000.

Neither the capital stock nor the surplus of the North American Company will be increased.

President Thorne made two offers for the

increased.

President Thorne made two offers for the purchase of the stock of the New York

ourchase of the stock of the New 1972 company.

One was \$210 cash for each share and the other \$170 cash and 18 per cent of the par value of the New York stock in the stock of the North American Company.

The stock of the latter company is valued at \$256 a share. The shares of the New York stockholders accepted the cash and stock offer.

The Evening Post says of the combination:

The Evening Post says of the combination:

"The combination is of unusual importance, in view of other consolidations pending, and suggests the ultimate centralization in this city of trust-company business
on a scale never before attempted in the
United States.

"One result of the alliance will be to
make instantly available the co-operation
facilities of different States, so that what
is done in the way of putting through a
deal at one center may be immediately reenforced by similar arrangements at another. In this way the financing of great
enterprises is expected to be expedited and
unusual facilities afforded."

STEEL TRUST IS INCORPORATED Capital \$300,000, but Is Subject to Vast Expansion.

Jersey City. N. J., Feb. 23.—The Universal Steel Company was recorded in the County Clerk's office here late Thursday afternoon. The capital is \$300,000, and the names given by the incorporators are not prominent.

For these reasons the corporation for a time escaped notice, as yesterday was a holiday. This morning it dawned upon the court officials that the innocent little company which was born on Thursday was the foundation on which the so-called "billion-dollar" Steel Trust was to rear its giant head, and the fact was made public.

### LOCAL WORK FOR THE FAIR.

North American Trust Company The Week Just Ended Has Shown Great Activity Among the Workers.

Fletcher S. and Perry S. Heath Desirable That Missouri Should They Went Into the Place to Sleep, Act Promptly in the Matter of the Exposition at Buffalo.

> Locally, the week just ended was one of great activity in World's Fair matters. The necessity of prompt action on the part of felt, and energies are devoted very sys-tematically in that direction. A committee,

> consisting of Mr. P. W. Lehmann, Mr. C. P. Walbridge, president of the Business Men's League; Mr. Robert H. Kern and former Lieutenant Governor J. B. O'Meara, visited Topeka early in the week to solicit an appropriation from the Legislature of Kansas for a State exhibit, in accordance with bill already introduced.

They were met by Judge J. C. Slonecker of Topeka, who is a zealous advocate of the World's Fair, and several leading citizens of Topeka, who entertained them at the Topeka Club. They called on Governor Stanley, who received them cordially and promised his co-operation. They saw several of the Senators, all of whom were also favorable to a liberal appropriation, and then appeared before the Ways and Means Committee of the House, which gave them a special hearing. Mr. Lehmann presented the case in a most able manner, and he was followed by Messrs. Kern. Walbridge and O'Meara. These gentlemen departed with very favor ble impressions of the situation.

Coming back they stopped at Jefferson City and informally called on Governo Dockery and several Senators and members of the House to urge an appropriation for the Pan-American Exposition. It is feared that if this is not done, New York may not make a liberal appropriation for a State ex-hibit at the St. Louis World's Fair. The Legislation Committee is especially anxious for Missouri to act, not only in the New York matter, but also to carry out the wish of the people in the \$1,000,000 appropriation from the sinking fund, as the other States in the Purchase are waiting to see what Missouri will do for herself. In addition to this, active, aggressive work

has been done within the week with the States of Washington, Oregon, Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Colorado, North Dakota South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota, Ar-

magnering companies of the company of the company of the company of the shooting was released yesterday at noor of the organizers of the company of the wind of the shooting was released yesterday at noor of the organizers of the company of the wind of the wi

James Cox, secretary of the Business James Cox, secretary of the Business Men's Lengue, who has been acting as secretary of the preliminary organization since the convention at the Southern Hotel in January, 189, will be at his desk to-morrow morning after a somewhat serious illness, He stated yesterday that the only redeeming feature of the irksome confinement wan the escape for a short time from the assaults of officeseekers. Speaking on this subject, Mr. Cox said that, so far as he knew, a promise of a position under the Louisiana Purchase Exposition Company had not been made to any one, nor is any had not been made to any one, nor is any one authorized to make such a promise.

As the date of actual work on the Fair approaches, the discussion of the site question of the site question. approaches, the discussion of the site question becomes more general. The rule at headquarters is that the question of the location of the Fair must not be even casually talked over with visitors, and no one in the office will express an opinion or give any information beyond explaining that the sitwill be selected by the directors of the company, who will be elected by the stock-holders. The pictures of possible sites or features of the Fair on the walls of the temporary headquarters were hung out of courtesy to the donors, and have no significance beyond that fact.

### WATCHMAN'S VICTIM HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED.

Tony Zacker, Found Asleep in the Factory, Says Dead Man's Name Is Alonzo Krill.

OTHER STATES. DID NOT KNOW OF THE KILLING.

the Prisoner Asserts, and Had No Intention of Stealing Anything.

instantly killed by Private Watchman John Schmidt in the Quick Meal Range factory at Nos. \$13-817 Chouteau avenue at 10 o'clock Friday night, has been identified as that of Alonzo Krill by Tony Zacker, who was found asleep in the factory at 5 o'clock yesterday morning.

Krill lived with his mother and father, who conduct a saloon at the northwest corner of Dolman street and Russell ave-

While searching the building about 5 o'clock yesterday morning Sergeant Tierney and Policemen Sicking. Roe and Manion found a man sleeping in a water trough on the second floor. A patrol wagon conveyed him to the Central District Station, where he gave the name of John Meyers and said he lived with his parents at No. 1819 South Tenth street. He declared he had gone into the place alone to sleep and knew nothing about any other man. Detectives McKenna, Williams and Bambrick put him through a severe sweating, but he declared he knew nothing of any other man until after he had been taken to the morgue to view the corpse. Then at first he denied ever seeing the man, but later when Captain Reynolds told him there was no charge against him he said he would talk.

"My right name is Tony Zacker," he began. "I gave the name of Meyers because my father told me a long time ago that if I ever got into trouble not to give the family name. That boy at the morgue is Alonzo Krill. He was 19 years old and lived with his mother. I believe he was a peddler. I worked in the Paddock Iron Foundry at Collins and O'Falion streets until last Monday, when I quit. On Tuesday I met this fellow Krill. We went to East St. Louis and stayed until Friday, when we came back. We had no money and as I had worked at the Quick Meal factory and knew the building I proposed we go in there.

"About 10 o'clock the watchmen came up. Krill got frightened and ran; I dropped into the water trough, where I stayed the rest of the night until the officers found me. I did not know Krill was dead until I saw his body at the morgue. We had no intention of stealing anything, but just went there to sleep. I had slept there several nights."

Private Watchman John Schmidt, who did the shouting was released venterday at near While searching the building about 5

nights."
Private Watchman John Schmidt, who did

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

Jefferson City, Mo., Feb. 23.—The House was the only branch of the General Assembly in session to-day. A number of bills were sent to engrossment, among them being the measure introduced by Judge Hawkins, providing that the guilty party in a divorce case shall not remarry for a term of years.

of years.

The measure of Representative Bothwell to make effective the third constitutional amendment, providing for the taxation of mortgages, was debated at length, and was finally made a special order for further debate for next Thursday.

Among the bills introduced to-day was one by Toung of Johnson, to increase the salary of the physician of the Penitentiary from \$1,200 to \$1,000.

**NEW ENGLAND SOCIETY MEETS.** O. L. Whitelaw Is Elected President-Other Officers.

At the annual meeting of the New England Society, which was held at the Mercantile Club yesterday afternoon, the following were elected officers for the ensuing year: O. L. Whitelaw, president; George A. Baker, first vice president; John F. Shepley, second vice president; Doctor Horatio N. Spencer, third vice president; W. B. Homer and the Reverend C. H. Pattof, Executive Committee; George M. Bartlett, treasurer, and Melvin H. Stearns, secretary.

White Rats" an organization of vaudeville

performers, against houses that belong to

thrown that field of amusement into con-

siderable confusion. As to the merits of

## **HEAVY SALARIES THAT GO** TO FAMOUS VAUDEVILLANS.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

New York, Feb. 22.-A reporter was allowed to inspect the books of the Vaudeville Managers' Association to-day. He obtained the list herewith of salaries of well-known

WHAT THE STRIKE MEANS. The Two Sides of the Controversy

vaudeville artists. The association of the names into White Rats and non-White Rats, who are now opposed in an organization war. These salaries are the top motch compensation as paid the artists when in vaudeville, and does not pretend to represent their salaries under all managers:

George Fuller Golden, \$350; Charles F. Aldridge, \$390; Canfield and Carleton, \$200; Bellman and Moore, \$300; Sam Bernard, \$300; Otis Harlan, \$200; Maurice Barrymore, \$500; Dolan and Lenhur, \$300; Filson and Errol, \$225; Levy and Clayton, \$300; Joseph Hart and Carrie Lemar, \$500; Milton and Dolly Nobles, \$300; Dorothy Morton, \$300; Henry Lee, \$400 and \$300; Staley and Burbeck, fares and \$400; Gus Williams, \$300; J. J. Morton, \$200; James Thornton, \$300; J. J. Morton, \$200; James Thornton, \$300; Bonnie Thornton, \$200; Jessie Bartlett Davis, \$850 to \$1,000; Camille D'Arville, \$750 to \$1,000; Girl With the Auburn Hair, \$600; Della Fox, \$800 to \$1500; Panny Rice, \$750; Johnstone Bennett, \$500; Exta Kendall, \$500; Fanny Rice, \$750; Johnstone Bennett, \$500; Lillian Burkhard, \$300; Robert Hilliard, \$500; Fanny Rice, \$750; Johnstone Bennett, \$500; Lillian Burkhard, \$300; States and \$400; Ressie Bonchill, \$500; Extis Buttler, \$250; Laura Burk, \$250; Exta Kendall, \$500; Fanny Rice, \$750; Johnstone Bennett, \$500; Lillian Burkhard, \$300; Robert Hilliard, \$300; Fanny Rice, \$750; Johnstone Bennett, \$500; Extis Buttler, \$250; Laura Burk, \$250; Extis Burkhard, \$300; Vernous Jarbesu, \$300; Perkins D. Fishe, \$250; Corinne, \$250; Rose Coghian, \$300; Perkins D. Fishe, \$250; Corinne, \$250; Rose Coghian, \$300; Corinne, \$250; Rose Coghian, \$300; Perkins D. Fishe, \$250; Corinne, \$250; Rose Coghian, \$300; Corinne, every labor trouble. The performers say With to have received \$4,000 a week, and the said to have received \$4,000 a week, and the said to have received \$4,000 a week, and the said to have received \$4,000 a week, and the said to have received \$4,000 a week, and the said the thousands. In the meantime many of these performers have been content to do the same old "stunt," recite the same old mand and, eau, said the same old "stunt," recite the same old monologue, crack the same old jokes and go through the same physical contortions. Some of them have not tried to improve themselves or add novelty to their performance. The result has been that the managers have been compelled to seek their supply from the legitimate stage; to call to their aid trained playwrights, and it is the introduction of bits of drama, artistically presented, and the appearance of actors from the legitimate stage at menace the fortunes of some of the nonprogressive perthe formers, and not the managers.

#### J. WALDERE KIRK ANNOUNCES SPRING STYLES FOR MEN.

"King of the Dudes" Gets Back From the Klondike Just in Time.

ISSUES HIS FIRST PROCLAMATION.

Gorgeous Colors Are Permitted to His Subjects, but Said Colors Must Harmonize.



J. WALDERE KIRK.

For business Single and double

double breasted Prince Albert, of

Tuxedo reigns favorite for dinner

Overcoats—Ragian for dress; eav-ery, just above the knees, for busi-ness; sack for Prince Albert and frock coats.

· breasted sacks, worsted and Scotch

• in stripes and checks.
• For half-dress-The single

black vicuna; white waistcoats.

· CORRECT STYLES

WARDROBE OF BUSINESS DUDE. .

J. Waldere Kirke says he has not . many clothes with him. This is just . his business wardrobe

Twenty-two pairs of trousers. Fifteen suits of clother, Seven hats. Eight pairs of shoes.

Four dozen shirts. Ten dozen collars. Seventy-three ties. Two dozen pairs of gloves,

REPUBLIC SPECIAL. New York, Feb. 23.—J. Waldere Kirk, "the King of Dudes," is in town, and the young men who scan the fashion-plates with much enthusiasm are exceedingly glad.
Now that King Edward VII has ceased to

Now that King Edward VII has ceased to be the Prince of Wales and set the sartorial pace for the smart ones, J. Waldere will be in vogue.

President Vreeland of the Metropolitan Street Railway Company has said that if a young man has only \$25 and he is looking for a job he would better spend \$20 of it for a suit of clothes, \$4 for shoes and \$1 for a hair cut, a shave and a fresh tie than to apply with the cash in the pocket

His shoes were patent leather, carefully polished.

'I have just come from the West," said Mr. Kirk. "I have been to the Klondike-I have mining interests there, you know. I have brought back some of the nicest nuggets you ever raw. The field there is a rich one. Of course many are disappointed; it is like everything cise in life. Not all are successful in business.

'Clothes? Why, really, my boy, clothes are the finest things in the world to give a man a start in life, but-why, I am thinking more of business just now. Don't misunderstand me-clothes are business—they are the stepping-stones to success; but, my boy, there are other things than dress.

First Essential is a Shave.

'The first rule for a man to appear as a gentleman? Why, that is so easy that everybody should know. First of all, get a clean shave. Whiskers and well-dressed men do not go together.

"Now, another thing-don't wear a frock coat in the morning.

"Don't wear white ties with Tuxede coats." than to apply with the cash in the pocket of a seedy cutfit.

J. Waldere Kirk indorsed this sentiment at the Hotel Cadillac to-day. Clothes are his stock in trade.

back.
His tie was of red, in a small knot and with a modest stick pin.
His overcont was a dark brown, reaching just above the knees.
His hat was a black derby.

#### **MACKAY'S AUTO** FINEST IN WORLD.

American Millionaire Expects to Beat All Competitors-Vanderbilt on Racing Carts.

SPECIAL BY CABLE. Paris, Feb. 23.-(Copyright, 1991, by W. R.

Mackay has ordered what is meant to be the fastest automobile in the world, explains it as follows for The Republic:
"Mr. Mackay's machine will be the dearest ever made. It will contain the combined improvements of automobilism up to date. Every race shows how fast this new source

of pleasure and branch of industry is imfor Mr. Mackay, I shall construct six ma-chines. Of these he will have the best.

charge \$17,000 for the one which suits. It nust be easier of management and of direction than any hitherto made. "The great drawback with automobiles is

that they are too complicated. We must make them simpler, and yet power must be power automobile five years ago I should have been laughed at. The visionary of yesterday is the sage of to-day.
"I have been reminded that the fastest both cases, perhaps more in automobilism

in this automobile the greatest horse power with the least weight. "I shall not be able to finish it before next May. Then the United States can boast of having the best automobile in the world."
W. K. Vanderbilt, Jr., is here and cold

weather does not dampen his ardor for the bilism, Mr. Vanderbilt said to-day: "American automobiles will soon surpass those of France. Already they are better in some respects. They are lighter and less

"My idea is best conveyed by taking the American buggy and comparing it with sim-ilar vehicles of other nations. Its lightness ioes not render it fragile.

"So with our auton "The big race from New York to Buffalo

He is now posing as a Klondike gold king.

## PRIEST CONVERTED A HOLD-UP MAN.

New York, Feb. 23.-Victor Hugo's "Les Miserables" is vividly recalled in a pa-

A Catholic priest who is being alowly nursed back to bealth after a long illness and a bold highwayman who held up the good man on a lonely road are the actors. The priest at the time of the attempted robbery was bastening to the bedside of a dying man to administer the last sacra-

"It was near midnight when I answered a ring of the doorbell. I found a man on the

"'Father,' said he, 'will you come in a hurry? A good friend is dying. He wants "I hurriedly donned my street clothes, taking the blessed sacrament with me. I

a policeman after fifteen minutes' walk, was told where the family lived.

"But that family is not a Catholic family, father," said the policeman, Barney Nolan, who knew I was a priest. I thanked

Notah, who knew I was a priest. I thanked him and continued my walk.

"I was within a few feet of the Wagaraw bridge when I saw the dark shadow of a person coming toward me.

"Stop where you are and hand over your money," were the words fired at me.

"I was not afraid of the fellow, so I stenged closer to him.

"I was not afraid of the fellow, so I stepped closer to him.

"My good man," I said, 'I am on my way to a sick bed. A dying man wants the consolation of a priest, and will you stop me? Suppose your mother was on her deathbed and she sent for a minister of God, what would you do to the man who would stop him on his way?

"The word 'mother' was my magic wand. The fellow looked me squarely in the eyes. He saw my Roman collar and whispered, rather than spoke:

He saw my Roman collar and whispered, rather than spoke:

"'A priest! Father, forgive me!"

"The highwayman began to weep and said, 'Father, let me accompany you. The family you are seeking live near North Paterson. I will accompany you."

"He directed me to the house, fours miles from my residence, and waited until I had attended the daying man. Then he came home with me. He said that he had been drinking and had spent all his money in a dance hall. He wanted money to bring home.

"I am not a thief father," he said, 'but when I saw you I thought to myself, 'Here

when I saw you I thought to myself, 'Here is a good chance to get money,' so I held

"The big race from New York to Buffalo will lead to further improvements.

"Americans are mechanics by nature and superior mechanism invariably tells. Nevertheless, France should get great credit for the splendid lead she has given in this new and interesting form of mechanism.

"I don't know whether I shall take an active part in the race, but personally, and as a member of the American Automobile Club, I shall follow it with keen interest."